REMARKS

I. Claim Status. By this Amendment, claims 14, 23, 24, 33 and 35 are pending. Claims 1-13, 15-22, 25-32, 34, 36 and 37 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 14, 23, 24 and 33 have been amended. Support for the amended claims is found throughout the specification, e.g., at page 10, lines 24-28; page 13, lines 18-38; and page 24, lines 8-13. By this Amendment, no new matter has been added to the application.

II. Claim Rejections. The Final Office Action set forth a series of rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The rejections are summarized and addressed as follows.

(i) Claims 23 and 25 were rejected as obvious over Konig (Ann. NY Acad. Sci., 777:345-355, 1996) or in view of Seubert et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,114,133 and Duenas et al. (Biotechniques, 16:476-483, 1994). In response, without conceding the validity of the rejection, claim 23 has been amended and claim 25 has been cancelled.

Claim 23 has been limited to free-end specific antibodies targeted to a free N-terminus of amyloid β peptide or a free C-terminus of amyloid β peptide Aβ1-40. Claim 23 has also been amended to call for the antibodies recited therein to bind soluble amyloid peptide. Konig fails to disclose or suggest the antibodies of claim 23.

Monoclonal antibody (MAb) 286.8A disclosed in Konig is not specific for a free N-terminus of Aβ. Monoclonal antibody 286.8A was raised against epitope βA4 3-8 (Konig at page 348). Yet binding of MAb 286.8A is competed by human Aβ peptides in which the amino terminus of βA4 3-8 is blocked (see Table 1 of Konig-- staining with MAb 286.8A blocked by human Aβ peptides 1-16, 1-42 and 1-43). Thus, MAb 286.8A is not specific for the free N-terminus of βA4 3-8. Nor does Konig suggest an antibody that is free-end specific for the free N-terminus of beta amyloid. MAb 369.2 disclosed in Konig binds the C-terminus of Aβ1-42. Konig, however, makes no suggestion to obtain an antibody that binds the C-terminus of any Aβ peptide other than Aβ1-42. Accordingly, Konig fails to disclose or suggest the antibodies that recognize a free N-terminus of amyloid β peptide or a free C-terminus of amyloid β peptide Aβ1-40, as called for in claim 23. For this reason, claim 23 is not obvious over Konig.

Additionally, claim 23 has been amended to call for antibodies that bind to soluble Aβ peptides. Konig fails to disclose or suggest an antibody that recognizes a free N-terminus of

amyloid β peptide or a free C-terminus of Aβ1-40 of soluble amyloid β peptide. For this reason additionally, claim 23 is not obvious over Konig.

Nor do the respective general teachings of Seubert and Duenas concerning antibodies that recognize beta amyloid and monoclonal antibodies suggest modifying the antibodies disclosed in Konig to arrive at antibodies that recognize a free N-terminus of amyloid β peptide or a free C-terminus of Aβ1-40 of soluble peptide. Thus, Seubert and Duenas do not cure the defects of Konig.

For at least the reasons set forth above, claim 23 is not obvious over Konig alone, or over Konig in combination with Seubert and Duenas. Reconsideration of claim 23 and withdrawal of the instant rejection is requested, accordingly.

(ii) Claims 14, 23, 24, 25, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 collectively were rejected as obvious over Saido et al., (The Journal of Biochemistry [sic: Biological Chemistry], 269:15253-15257, 1994) in view Takeda Chemical Industries Ltd., EP Patent 0 683 234 A1, Goding (Monoclonal Antibodies, Academic Press Inc., London 1983, pages 56-97), Seubert et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,114,133, and Duenas et al. (Biotechniques, 16:476-483, 1994).

In response, without conceding the validity of the rejection, claim 14 has been amended and claims 25 and 34, 36 and 37 have been cancelled.

Claim 14 has been amended to call for free-end specific antibodies that bind to soluble Aβ peptides. Saido fails to disclose or suggest a free-end specific antibody that binds soluble Aβ. To the contrary, Saido reports binding of Ab-9204 to Western blots (denatured protein bound to solid support) and to senile plaques of Alzheimer's patients (insoluble plaques; fixed sections). Nor does Saido suggest a free-end specific antibody that binds soluble Aβ. Saido is concerned with using antibodies for diagnostic purposes. Such purposes do not require recognition of soluble Aβ. Nor do any of the other references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the antibodies called for in amended claim 14. Thus, the other references cited b the Examiner fail to cure the defects of Saido. Accordingly, claim 14 is not obvious over Saido, either alone or in combination with the prior art of record. Each of the other remaining claims 23, 24, 33 and 35 depends directly or indirectly from claim 14. Because each of these claims includes all of the features of claim 14, these claims are also not obvious over Saido, either along or in combination with the other prior art of record. Reconsideration of the pending

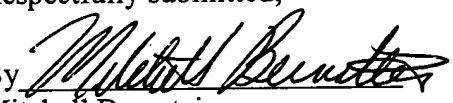
claims and withdrawal of the rejections thereof as obvious over Saido and the secondary references cited by the Examiner is requested, accordingly.

CONCLUSION

This application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes there are outstanding issues that could be advanced by an Examiner's interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney listed below.

Dated: July 14, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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